Launching of Skylab

3601. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ISRO is going to launch a Skylab in June-July this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof, the cost involved and benefits expected from it;

(c) whether it is totally indigenous venture or in collaboration with others; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir. However, there are plans for conducting experiments with platforms in orbit around earth for limited period and with specific objectives. A Spacecraft Recovery Experiment (SRE) is planned involving a 610 kg. Capsule. This is planned for launch by Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle during the third quarter of 2006-07 from Sriharikota.

(b) SRE will have a metallographic experiment on board and the samples processed in space will be recovered and brought back for studies. The cost involved for this experiment is Rs. 46 crore. The technologies related to Re-entry and Micro-gravity experiments can be derived from this launch.

(c) Yes, Sir. This is totally an indigenous venture.

(d) SRE is intended to test reusable thermal protection system, navigation, guidance and control, hypersonic aero-thermodynamics, management of communication blackout, deceleration and floatation system, recovery operations, etc. In addition two scientific experiments (i) Growth of quasi-crystals in microgravity (ii) Biomimmetic synthesis of inorganic nano-particles under microgravity environment are planned.

Raising more orbit manoeuvres

3602. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to launch more satellites in the future;